

## Newton Public Schools

# FAQ: Why close Halsted?



- The Board of Education had a full professional assessment of the district's facilities done in 2011, and a more targeted analysis with public input in 2015. **Many facility inadequacies were identified at Halsted** including regular classrooms, specialized rooms for arts and sciences, core spaces such as gymnasium and cafeteria, mechanical fixtures, and disability access among others.
- **The cost to provide sufficient space and bring the school up to code (which is a necessary part of most renovations) is over \$17 million**, for which there is no money available in our regular operating budget. Even this would not address all issues with the site such as infrastructure, traffic, parking, outdoor space, and community space.
- **The Board of Education has determined that fixing and upgrading Halsted is not cost effective when compared to the proposed plan.** The State has authorized the closing of the building. However, the building and property have value to investors for other purposes that would benefit the community and could be added to the tax rolls.

## Merriam Avenue School Expansion Referendum

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

7:00 am - 8:00 pm

### *Polling Locations*

First Methodist United Church, 111 Ryerson Ave  
Municipal Building, 39 Trinity St

First Aid & Rescue Squad, 68 Sussex St  
Firehouse #1, 22 Mill St

***PLEASE VOTE ! Your voice needs to be heard.***